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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

MAERTENS et al

Serial No. 09/685,964

Filed: October 12, 2000

For: IMPROVED IMMUNODIAGNOSTIC ASSAYS USING REDUCING AGENTS



Atty. Ref.: 2551-97

Group: 1648

Examiner: Hill

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

February 10, 2003 **RECEIVED**

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

AMENDMENT

Responsive to the Official Action dated August 9, 2002, entry and consideration of the following amendments and remarks are requested; the period for response having been extended up to and including February 10, 2003, by submission of the attached extension petition and petition fee.

The format of the present paper is submitted to comply with soon-to-be adopted amended 37 CFR 1.121, and as permitted in the attached "Pre-OG Notice" dated January 31, 2003 signed by Steven Kuhnин, Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy. The format to the present Amendment is believed to be in compliance with the attached and is submitted without prejudice. The Office is requested to advise the undersigned in the event anything further is required to comply with the attached "Pre-OG Notice", or any other applicable Rule, and allow time, without penalty or prejudice, to provide any further or corrected item.